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Letter dated 3 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and in reference to the letter dated 2 February 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Syrian regime to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, I should like to state the following:

Qatar categorically rejects the thoroughly baseless accusations contained in the letter from the representative of the Syrian regime. The low level to which that regime has sunk demonstrates yet again that it has little regard for the capacity of the international community to distinguish between those sorts of lies and the facts on the ground.

The bloody record of that regime is full of instances of the use of internationally prohibited weapons, including chemical weapons, as well as the murder of civilians, the imposition of blockades, the use of starvation as an instrument of policy, and serious violations of human rights. Its policy is to deny its crimes while making delusional attempts to shift blame to the States that have taken on the responsibility of protecting the Syrian people in accordance with international law and exposing and documenting the crimes of the regime. The letter from that regime's representative should make it clear to the Council that the regime intends to commit fresh crimes. The letter reveals the full extent of the regime's plans for the areas mentioned and makes clear that it plans to blame its new crimes on the States that are supporting the demands of the Syrian people.

If it wishes to restrain that regime and prevent it from committing new crimes, the Council has a responsibility to take a determined stand against a regime that is continuing to kill its own people. The Council must implement its resolutions on the situation in Syria.

Qatar reiterates its support for the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people for freedom, dignity and self-determination, in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Qatar also renews its commitment to working with the international community to implement international humanitarian law and bring to international justice all those responsible for ordering, planning or carrying out war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria.

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I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative